Video-link facility made available in district and ex-cadre courts

LAHORE: Lahore High Court (LHC) Chief Justice Aalia Neelum has introduced video-link facility in district and ex-cadre courts of Punjab.

The litigant parties or lawyers with pending cases may apply for the video-link facility using a designated form, said a statement issued by the LHC on Thursday.

It said that any lawyer or individual could avail the facility to present arguments before the court through the video-link. However, the video-link facility was primarily intended for individuals who were not physically present within the jurisdiction of the district court or who — despite being within the district — sought exemption from physical appearance due to unavoidable reasons such as illness, disability, geographical distance, travel restrictions, or security concerns, it added.

The application form for the video-link facility had been made available on the district judiciary website and could be accessed at https://dsj.punjab.gov.pk.

According to the LHC instructions, the form must be completely filled out and submitted to the relevant forum within seven days, on Fridays or Saturdays. — **Staff Reporter**

Police find 'kidnapped' girl eloped to Afghanistan

NAROWAL: The district police have concluded that a 16-year-old girl, who was allegedly kidnapped, has eloped to Afghanistan on her own free will.

According to details, Abdul Haq, a labourer in Sialkot, complained to the police that on Oct 27, his 16-year-old daughter Samina went out of the house to throw a garbage bag. He alleged that an unknown person forcibly abducted her in a car.

The Kotwali Police registered an FIR against an unidentified accused.

Sialkot DPO Faisal Shahzad formed teams which used CCTV cameras and human intelligence sources to search for the girl. However, the investigation concluded that the girl had eloped to Afghanistan with a man named Mukhtar Khan, an Afghan citizen who used to run a mutton and beef business in Sialkot.

Police sources said that Samina had gone to Afghanistan with Mukhtar and his family.

Meanwhile the duo, Samina and Mukhtar, recorded a video statement in which Mukhtar said he did not kidnap Samina and they loved each other.

Samina also appeared in the video and said she had come to Afghanistan with him of her own free will.

The DPO told *Dawn* that the claim of kidnapping for ransom was false and no one had forcibly kidnapped Samina. He said that CCTV footage showed that the girl left of her own free will. — Correspondent

LAHORE: Cycle market shops being demolished for the Nila Gumbad parking plaza project. — Dawn

Tepa to hand over three heritage sites to LAHR, WCLA soon

Agency in final stages of demolishing shops hiding visibility of sites and construction of a parking plaza

By Khalid Hasnain

LAHORE: The Traffic Engineering & Transport Planning Agency (Tepa) is all set to hand over the three heritage sites -- Nila Gumbad, Deori corridor and the Indo-Pak's first bank building -- to the Lahore Authority for Heritage Revival (LAHR) soon for carrying out conservation work in collaboration with the Walled City of Lahore Authority (WCLA).

As per details, the ongoing demolition of shops hiding the visibility of these sites have entered the final round and the construction of a parking plaza, which will house shops for the affected shopkeepers of the cycle market is also underway, according to a senior official of the Lahore Development Authority (LDA) -- the parent organisation of Tepa.

"After paying compensation of over Rs610 million to the affected shopkeepers and some residents on Saturday, Tepa on Sunday launched the demolition work. This work will be completed soon, enabling us to proceed further," LDA Director General Tahir Farooq said while talking to *Dawn* on Thursday.

According to him, the construction of the parking plaza was launched last month and at present the piling work was underway. The total cost of the parking plaza project was Rs2.451 billion. It will have a ground floor with three basements equipped with drainage, electrical, plumbing, fire fighting equipment, ventilation, parking management & CCTV, lift and roads infrastructure.

"The construction of the plaza will take sometime. However, the demolition works will be completed soon," the DG said.

Tepa Chief Engineer Iqrar Hussain told *Dawn* that after the demolition, the sites would be handed over to LAHR for conservation works.

"We are limited to just constructing the parking plaza and removing all encroachments, including some shops and houses hindering visibility of the Gumbad. The Nila Gumbad, the shrine of Sheikh Abdul Razak Makki who was the disciple of Baba Mauj Darya, was constructed around 350 years ago by the then Mughal emperor according to design of the Mausoleum of Ameer Taimur in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. Another similar Nila Gumbad also exists in Humayon's tomb complex in Delhi," he explained.

Mr Hussain said that with the lapse of time, people started encroaching on the area around the Nila Gumbad by constructing shops, turning the area into a market - majority selling and repairing cycles. Resultantly, the shopkeepers became tenants of the Auqaf department. But this mess completely hindered the visibility of the shrine and its various parts, especially the dome, he explained.

"As the demolition work is underway at the moment, the Gumbad is now visible and soon it will be handed over to the authorities concerned for restoration etc," he added.

He said that besides this, a sitting place, coffee shops and eateries would also be set up on the ground floor of the parking plaza. The Tepa chief said the plaza would consist of four floors, including three basements.

He said the plaza would provide parking to nearly 400 cars and 800 motorcycles, besides 62 shops to be made available for the affected shopkeepers in the first basement.

"After completion of the project titled "Uplifting of Nila Gumbad Area along with provision of underground parking facility", all heritage sites would be visible. Moreover the parking, traffic congestion related issues would be no more," he maintained.

Lawyers rally against 27th Amendment

LAHORE: The members of the Lahore Bar Association (LBA) on Thursday took out a rally against the 27th Amendment, which established the Federal Constitutional Court (FCC) in the country.

The rally was taken out from Aiwan-i-Adl to Charing Cross, which was joined by the members of the Lahore High Court Bar Association (LHCBA) at GPO Chowk, The Mall. At present, both bar associations are ruled by the Hamid Khan-led professional group. — **Staff Reporter**

NA-129 by-poll 'engineering' panned by PTI

By Mansoor Malik

LAHORE: The Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf has slammed the PML-N government for 'blatant rigging tactics' for its candidate in NA-129 by-election as it began with deploying state force to tear down PTI candidate's banners and posters, managing polling stations and then appointing subordinates of the PML-N aspirant, who has served as chairman of the Lesco Board of Directors.

The by-election is scheduled for Nov 23 (Sunday).

The PTI leaders say the sequence of coercion and patronage amounts to an orchestrated attempt to tilt the electoral playing field in favour of the ruling party's candidate Muhammad Nauman.

The NA-129 seat, vacated after the death of Mian Muhammad Azhar, is being contested by his nephew Chaudhry Arslan – who was nominated by Azhar's son and former PTI Punjab acting president Hammad Azhar. The junior Azhar is absconding as he is wanted by the state in different cases.

The PTI is contesting by-election only in Lahore, while boycotted [on Imran's call] all by-polls in Sargodha, Mianwali, Sahiwal, Faisalabad, D.G Khan and Muzaffargarh – where by-polls were scheduled after PTI MPAs were disqualified by the ECP.

Before the election campaign could pick-up, the local police officials, caught on video footage, were seen removing banners of PTI candidate Chaudhry Arslan – contesting as an independent candidate on "Gyser" symbol. The PTI leaders alleged the government had posted Lesco officials as presiding officers in the by-election being contested by PML-N candidate Muhammad Nauman, who had served as Lesco BoD chairman.

Hammad Azhar sarcastically tweeted that "it is an interesting coincidence that the PML-N candidate is Lesco chairman and the presiding officers have also been picked from the same company." He also posted four appointment orders of the polling staff showing that all four presiding officers were selected from Lesco.

Lesco Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Ramzan Butt has, however, rejected the Hammad Azhar's message on social media, stating that the appointment of some Lesco officers as presiding officers is the decision of the ECP and not the Lesco or any other government organisation.

"We have not appointed our officers as POs for performing election duty but the ECP. In previous elections too, the Lesco officers also performed duties as POs," the Lesco chief said while talking to Dawn on Thursday. "It is a routine matter," he added.

According to another senior Lesco officer, who wished not to be quoted, the Lesco's current chairman BoD is not the candidate (of PML-N), as he served as BoD head two years ago.

The post of BoD chairman is honorary and the person who served on this slot is not required two to three years after leaving the job to contest elections. "So it's ridiculous to say that Mr Nauman is the current chairman of the Lesco BoD, as he left the position two years before," the officer maintained.

Hammad Azhar has also alleged that the incumbent government was also taking different administrative measures "due to public fear in NA-129".

In his tweet, Mr Azhar said some presiding officers were summoned to the Chief Minister's House and issued threats. He alleged the government was also employing other tactics, to keep voters away, frustrated and afraid, like relocated 51 polling stations several kilometers away from populated areas; transferred votes from one areas to polling stations in other areas; removed PTI publicity material and arrested workers under police supervision; issued threats to local leaders over the phone and prohibiting Arslan Zaheer from running his election campaign; moving the returning officer's office even farther from the constituency; and "presenting an administration tout as a fake PTI candidate."

It is learnt that the incumbent government is projecting a former PTI leader Bajash Khan Niazi as a PTI candidate, who was issued show-cause notice and eventually his basic party membership was cancelled on indiscipline charges.

The PTI had issued a "Public Alert" on its letterhead that Bajash Niazi had also run a campaign against the PTI candidate and contested the election. It added that this person was yet again contesting the election and supporting the PML-N candidate.

Sui Southern Gas Company Limited

PUBLICATION # 041/24

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

HIRING OF CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR HIRING OF TAX CONSULTANT

Tender Enquiry No. SSGC / SC / EOI / 14088

Last Date of Submission of EOI is 10-12-2025 at 1100 hrs

Background: Sui Southern Gas Company Limited ("the Company") is a public limited Company incorporated in Pakistan and is listed on the Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad Stock Exchanges (now Pakistan Stock Exchange). The main activity of the Company is transmission and distribution of natural gas in Sindh and Balochistan. The Company is also engaged in certain activities related to the gas business including the manufacturing and sale of gas meters and construction contracts for laying of pipelines.

SSGC is registered with FBR for Income Tax, Sales Tax & FED while SSGC is also registered with SRB, BRA for provincial Sales Tax and with Sindh Excise & Balochistan Excise Departments for Professional Tax.

Brief Description of Project: SSGCL intend to hire Tax Consultancy service from a Partnership / Sole Proprietorship concern, having extensive experience in Advisory, Compliance and Litigation assignments for all Federal and Provincial Direct and Indirect Taxes.

Scope of Work: Standard consultancy services (e.g. advisory, statutory statements and other compliances) under both Direct and Indirect Tax Laws and all show cause notices, monitoring and audit procedures from Department Level to Tribunal Level.

The services are required mainly for Sui Southern Gas Company Limited as well as its employee retirement benefit funds and Funds Management Company.

Qualification & Eligibility Requirement: Reputable Tax consulting entities may submit their expression of interest (EOI) if they meet the below criteria, Please provide Nature of evidence (Documentary Evidence) to indicate meeting the Criteria:

1. Registered with FBR for Income Tax (Document required: FBR's Taxpayer Profile Inquiry)
2. Registered with SRB for Sindh Sales Tax (Document required: SRB's Taxpayer Online Verification)
3. Income tax filer (status = active with FBR) (Document required: FBR's Active Taxpayer List (Income Tax))
4. Sales tax filer (status = active with SRB) (Document required: SRB's Taxpayer Online Verification)
5. Evidence that in business in Tax consulting business (Document required: List of clients on Letterhead mentioned years of relationship)
6. Annual turnover in Tax advisory and consulting services (excluding audit & other revenue) - must be Rs. 40 million or above (Document required: Income Tax Return, along with confirmation on Letterhead specifying 'Tax' Revenue in absolute terms)
7. Team leader qualification & experience - must have atleast 20 years Tax Consultancy experience (Document required: Profile on letterhead).
8. Must have rendered tax consultancy services to atleast one Public Sector / Energy Sector client during last 2 years (Document required: List of Public Sector / Energy Sector clients mentioning years of relationship).
9. Must have won atleast 01 case in favour of taxpayer / client having Tax Demand of Rs. 500 Million from level of Commissioner (Appeals) / Appellate Tribunal (Document required: Appellate Judgment)

EOI Opening Time: Only firms registered with PPRA for e-procurement on the EPADS system may submit the EOI documents/Proposal, which should be duly filled in, signed, and stamped, on EPADS only no later than 11 :00 PM on 10-12-2025 which will be opened on EPADS on the same day at 11 :30 PM at 2nd Floor Conference Room, Procurement Department, SSGC Head Office Karachi. The name of firms will be announced in the presence of their representatives' who wish to attend. SSGC reserves the right to reject one or all the proposals and annul the EOI process. The Consultancy firm will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the Qualification & Eligibility Requirement. SSGC reserves the right to reject all proposals and annul the EOI process.

EOI document will be downloaded by only those firms who are registered with PPRA for e-procurement on EPADS system (web link https://eprocure.gov.pk/#/auth/login).The profiles submitted after the bid submission time will not be entertained. Interested Firms are advised to register on PPRA EPADS system for the submission of EOI, Web link https://eprocure.gov.pk/#/supplier/registration.

Shortlisting: The consultant will be shortlisted in accordance with the procedures set out in Qualification & Eligibility Requirement. Only short listed consultants will be offered to submit detailed RFP. The method of procurement will be **Quality and Cost Based Selection** as per Procurement of Consultancy Services Regulations 2010.

For further details & queries, please visit SSGC's website www.ssgc.com.pk. The above information is also available on PPRA's website www.ppra.org.pk. You may contact: Deputy Chief Manager (TE) Ph# 92 - 21 - 99021279 or Manager (TE) Ph# 92-21- 99021238 or Deputy Manager (FP) Ph# 92 - 21 - 99013074 : e-mail: mmte@ssgc.com.pk,

PID(K)1787-25 www.ssgc.com.pk

Bureaucracy disrupting LG electioneering: PPP

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Pakistan People's Party has alleged that the officialdom is obstructing the party's local government electioneering in an attempt to create bad blood between the ruling coalition partners -- the PPP and the PML-N.

Flanked by Majeed Ghauri and Advocate Shahid Abbas, PPP leader Faisal Mir told a press conference here on Thursday that the bureaucracy was allegedly attempting to undo the ruling alliance to create political instability in the country as the traffic police are "forcibly removing" publicity material of the PPP displayed on vehicles.

Terming the traffic police action uncalled for, Mir said they did not displayed the publicity material on any government office, but on the PPP's own property. Mir alleged that Mr Ghauri was called by the DC office and was told to stop the PPP's ongoing membership drive in the city, while the Lahore Development Authority (LDA) has sent a notice worth Rs874,000 to the PPP Lahore office for conducting political activities in a building in Johar Town, where the party has set up its office for coordinating local government activities in the provincial metropolis.

He said that the PPP is currently an ally of the PML-N, while the bureaucracy is conspiring against the Punjab government through actions against an allied party. He demanded a probe into the actions of the Lahore deputy commissioner (DC) and the chief traffic officer (CTO), as well as of the LDA for obstructing the PPP's political activities. He wondered that the PML-N offices in various parts of Lahore are not being served any notices.

"The malice of the CTO and LDA is evident from the fact that they have not imposed any fines or sent notices to 80-H Model Town, the PML-N's central secretariat.

"If this campaign is not stopped within 24 hours, we will surround the offices of commissioner, deputy commissioner and CTO," he warned.

Advocate Shahid, who is also president of the People's Lawyers Forum, Lahore Division, says that under Article 16, anyone could hoist party flag and banners on one's office, house or vehicle. He warned that legal action would also be taken against the government employees involved in "political vendetta".

Meanwhile, an LDA official claims the notice was served on the PPP office because the plot concerned was being illegally used for "commercial activities", without meeting legal requirements.